

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 13 JUNE 2011

Present

Chairman, Cllr M Solomon, Cllr J Riddle, Cllr D Lumber, Cllr B Webb, Cllr J Jackson, Cllr R Western, Cllr T Thayer & Cllr N Harrison

33) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed District Councillors Ann Bown & Ian Dyer along with 5 members of the public to the meeting.

The Chairman apologised for the late start to the meeting which was due to the fact that the Council had been meeting, privately, with the 4 candidates for the 2 vacancies on the Parish Council.

34) Apologies for Absence

These were received in respect of County Cllr John Edney.

35) Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda

There were none.

36) Co-option of New Councillors

The Chairman explained, in detail, the process that would be followed in determining which 2 candidates were to be invited to join the Council. If necessary there would be a series of votes until one candidate received a majority of the votes available. As Chairman he had an original vote & also a casting vote, if needed, although he hoped not to have to use it. The same process would then be followed again to select the 2nd candidate. The Chairman informed the meeting that the process was in accordance with guidance from The Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) & also the Sedgemoor District Monitoring Officer.

Following the first vote Antony Brown was co-opted on to the Council. There then followed another round of voting & with the vote tied the Chairman used his casting vote in favour of Dan Bingham. Both gentlemen were then invited to join the Council immediately.

37) The Views of Wembdon Residents

There were none.

38) Minutes

The minutes of the Annual meeting of the Parish Council, held on Monday 16 May 2011, were agreed & signed.

39) Report from the Police

There was no report.

40) Report from the Clerk

40.1) Salt/Grit Bins

The Clerk informed the meeting that he had written to the owners of the Cottage Inn seeking permission to place a salt bin on the verge adjacent to the pub.

40.2) The Entrance to Crossacre

Cllr J Riddle confirmed that a meeting with residents had taken place & that they were each likely to contribute up to £100 towards the cost of the repairs. Sedgemoor District Council was now obtaining the necessary quotes. A residents committee had been formed to deal with repairs to the road surface in future years.

40.3) The Mitchell Trust

It had been confirmed that whilst there had been four Parish Councillor Trustees this was not a requirement & the trust operated completely outside of the control of the Council.

41) Core Strategy Examination

The Chairman reported on his 3 day attendance at the examination. Because the Parish Council had made a submission to the examination they were entitled to speak at it & this had meant they had been able to take a full & active part discussing the issues that were likely to affect Wembdon.

The Chairman reported that S.D.C. spent much of the time defending their position against the developers who were trying to ensure that development proceeded much more quickly than the Core Strategy envisaged.

Day 1 was spent addressing the overall strategy including the total number of houses needed. The developer argued strongly that there should be immediate development on Cokerhurst Farm & that Wembdon was part of Bridgwater. The Chairman countered this argument.

Day 2 focused on Hinkley Point & all of the issues surrounding it.

Day 3 looked at the different areas earmarked for development but concentrated mostly on Cokerhurst Farm. The Chairman succeeded in getting the Wembdon Parish Plan accepted as evidence. The Inspector recognised that “new Wembdon” had not been fully absorbed & he also noted that traffic was a big issue.

The Inspectors report is due to be published by the middle of July.

42) Potential A39 Traffic Implications

The Chairman reported on informal discussions he had held with County Highways at the Core Strategy Examination where they had stated that there was evidence of support in Wembdon for a roundabout at Sandford Corner. This was contrary to views previously expressed by the Parish Council when representatives of EDF had addressed its meeting in April 2011.

The Highways sub-committee, which new Councillor Tony Brown joined, was tasked with finding out what the village wanted. It was also agreed that they would look again at the possible need for a crossing at the Quantock Road roundabout.

43) Allotments

Councillor T Thayer had met with the new owners of the adjacent field to discuss various issues. It had been agreed that they would have access to the standpipe closest to their field with the allotment holders using the other 2. A sub meter was to be fitted to the 3rd standpipe. Discussions had also taken place regarding the entrance to the allotments & the possibility of a padlock being fitted to the gate. This was to be considered by the Council. Concerns regarding late night motorists using the track to the allotments would be referred to the Police.

On a very positive note the developers of the new Chilton School, BAM, had agreed to repair the allotment track, as a community project, at no cost to the Council.

44) Correspondence

44.1) Sedgemoor Citizens Advice Bureau

Cllr Riddle agreed to attend the AGM being held on Friday 8 July.

44.2) Somerset Playing Fields of the Year Competition

The Council, delighted by the success of the previous 2 years, RESOLVED to enter the competition once again.

44.3) Community Council for Somerset

The Clerk informed the meeting of vacancies for Trustees/Directors to serve on the board of the Community Council for a period of 3 years.

44.4) Quantock Parish Cluster Group

The Chairman confirmed his attendance at the meeting on 28 June at Nether Stowey Village Hall. Cllr's J Jackson & N Harrison indicated that they might also be in attendance.

44.5) 650 Years of Somerset Magistracy

Cllr's D Lumber & Riddle confirmed their attendance at the commemorative service being held on August 14 2011.

44.6) Other Correspondence

The following was placed in the correspondence folder

- The minutes of the Quantock Parish Cluster Group meeting held on 15 March 2011
- Somerset Crane Project newsletter
- The Playing Field magazine

45) Finance

Balance At 16 May 2011		£12554.09
W.C.A. (Crossacre)		£ 100.00
Allotments		<u>£ 200.00</u>
		£12854.09
Less		
Insurance	£1020.40	
Allotment Refunds	£ 40.00	
Internal Audit	£ 10.00	
Dunn Simpson (Legal Fees)	£ 710.00	
Parrett Drainage Board	£ 5.03	
Ground Maintenance	£ 355.00	
Clerk's Expenses	£ 64.60	
SALC (Councillor Training)	£ 75.00	<u>£ 2280.03</u>
Balance at 13 June 2011		£10574.06

The Council approved the following payments

- Ground Maintenance £355.00
- Room Hire £201.60

- Somerset Playing Fields Association subscription £10.00
- C.P.R.E. subscription £29.00
- Donation to The Community Council for Somerset £50.00
- S.A.L.C. (new Councillor training) £50.00

46) Planning

51/11/00009 – 8 The Laurels, Wembdon. Shorten lowest ring of branches by 1 1/2metres and shorten remaining branches by 1metre max to 1No Blue Atlas Cedar tree (T6) Remove lowest ring of branches to raise canopy up to a max of 2metres, shorten remaining branches by a max of 1metre to 1No Blue Atlas Cedar tree (T7). To contain trees in a confined location for health and safety reasons.

No objection from the Planning sub-committee.

47) Matters Raised by Councillors

47.1) Playing Field & Adjoining Land

Cllr R Western confirmed that the Council's ground maintenance contractor would be removing the branch from the rhyne.

It was confirmed that former Councillor Stephen Bagg would undertake grass cutting of the newly leased land at a cost of £35 per cut.

A quote would be obtained for the painting of the railings by the Millennium Bridge.

New sockets had been put in place for the goalposts but the contractor was having difficulty locating the old ones.

The gate post on the self-closing gate needed to be replaced.

47.2) Litter in Church Road

S.D.C. Clean Surroundings would be asked to remove the litter from Church Road.